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surface thereof, said means comprising external terminals on side surfaces of the resin-conductor composite base.

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 2, 3, 5, and 6, and amend claims 1 and 8 in order to more appropriately define the present invention. In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1), Applicants provide a marked-up version of the amended claims in an attached Appendix designated "Version of Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made." Claims 1, 4, and 7 – 18 are pending.

Regarding the Final Office Action:

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph; rejected claims 1, 2, 13, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-055607 ("JP '607"); rejected claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '607 in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 04-172702 ("JP '702"); rejected claims 4 – 8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '607 in view of Yamamoto, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,789); and rejected claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '607 in view of Marusawa, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,744,024).

Regarding the Amendments to Claims 1 and 8:

Applicants amend claims 1 and 8 to more appropriately define the invention. Applicants submit that the amendments contain no new matter, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f) and the references to the disclosure that follow.

In amended claim 1, the recitation "wherein at least said matching capacitors are integrally constituted in a laminate module having a substantially flat lower surface, and said laminate module is disposed on a substantially flat surface of a composite base comprising an

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insulation member and conductor plates" draws support on page 8, line 25, to page 9, line 1, of the specification. The recitation "said laminate module having a ground electrode for connecting said capacitors to a ground on a substantially entire lower surface thereof," draws support on page 9, lines 24 – 25 of the specification. The recitation "said composite base comprising a ground electrode connected to said central conductors and said capacitors of said laminate module and terminal electrodes connected to said central conductors and said capacitors of said laminate module on the same plane, said ground terminals connected to said ground electrode and said input/output terminals connected to said terminal electrodes being provided as external terminals on side surfaces and/or a lower surface of said laminate module," draws support on page 9, lines 17 – 24, of the specification. The recitation "wherein a ground electrode of said composite base and at least one ground terminal are integrally formed by the same conductor plate," draws support on page 12, lines 2 – 4 of the specification. The recitation "wherein terminal electrodes and at least one input/output terminal are integrally formed by the same conductor plate," draws support on page 11, lines 23 – 25 of the specification. The recitation "and said terminal electrodes are not electrically connected to each other within the same conductor plate," draws support on page 18, lines 10 – 24 to page 19, line 11 of the specification, and Figs. 4 and 5. The recitation "wherein said ground electrode of said laminate module is disposed directly on a substantially entire upper surface of a ground electrode of said composite base," draws support on page 9, lines 25 – 28 of the specification.

In amended claim 8, the recitation "said means comprising external terminals on side surfaces of the resin–conductor composite base" draws support on page 12, lines 22 – 28 of the specification.

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Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that "[a]mendments to an application which are supported in the original description are NOT new matter." M.P.E.P. § 2163.07, 8th Ed., Aug. 2001, p. 2100-172, emphasis in original. Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that "[e]ach claim must be separately analyzed and given its broadest reasonable interpretation in light of and consistent with the written description." M.P.E.P. § 2163(II)(A)(1), p. 2100-159.

Rejection of Claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph:

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, and respectfully point out to the Examiner that:

> "[p]rior to determining whether the disclosure satisfies the written description requirement for the claimed subject matter, the examiner should review the claims and the entire specification ... to understand how applicant provides support for the various features of the claimed invention. ... *The analysis of whether the specification complies with the written description requirement calls for the examiner to compare the scope of the claim with the scope of the description to determine whether applicant has demonstrated possession of the claimed invention.*" M.P.E.P. § 2163(II)(A)(2), p. 2100-160, emphasis added, citations omitted.

To begin, in this rejection, the Examiner alleged:

> "The specification needs to disclose how the same conductor plate as recited in claim 5 integrally forms the terminal electrodes and at least one of the input/output terminals. Such a recitation yields all of the terminals electrodes being electrically connected, which would make the device unusable (i.e., **all of the terminals would be short circuited together**)" (Final Office Action, p. 2, emphasis in original).

In response, Applicants first note that the amendment to claim 1 incorporates the recitation of cancelled claim 5 ("wherein terminal electrodes and at least one input/output terminal are integrally formed by the same conductor plate in said resin-conductor composite

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base, and said terminal electrodes are not electrically connected to each other within the same conductor plate"). Specifically, this recitation can be explained with reference numerals of the constitutional numbers of the terminal electrodes, at least one input/output terminal and the same conductor plate in the following manner: "wherein terminal electrodes [16a, 16b] and at least one input/output terminal [17a/17b] are integrally formed by the same conductor plate [II, III] in said resin-conductor composite base [6 (comprising an insulation member 19 and conductor plates 16a, 16b, 18)]."

Furthermore, Applicants point out to the Examiner that the specification teaches that

> "In Figs. 4-7, hatched portions are conductor plates, and white portions are insulating thermoplastic resin portions . . . The ground electrode 18 and ground terminals 17b, 17c, 17e, 17f are integrally constituted by a single conductor plate I. The ground electrode 18 and the terminal electrodes 16a, 16b (separate conductor plates) are formed on the same flat plane. Also, a terminal electrode 16a on the input side and an input external terminal 17a are integrally constituted by another single conductor plate II. A terminal electrode 16b on the output side and an output external terminal 17d are integrally constituted by a still further single conductor plate III. The conductor plates I, II, III constitute the same flat plane" (*See* Applicants' specification, p. 18, l. 27 – p. 19, l. 12, emphasis added. *See also* Applicants' specification, p. 18, l. 10, p. 18, l. 24 – p. 19, l. 11, Figs. 4 and 5, and p. 11, l. 23 – p. 12, l. 11.).

Therefore, it is clear that "said terminal electrodes [16a, 16b] are not electrically connected to each other within the same conductor plate" (claim 1) so that the claimed non-reciprocal circuit device of the present application is obviously not short-circuited and unworkable.

Regarding claim 8, based on the Examiner's allegation that "the feature corresponding to the recitation "**means for positioning said laminate module**" needs to be disclosed..." (Final

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Office Action, p. 2, emphasis in original), claim 8 has been amended by including the recitation "said means comprising external terminals on side surfaces of the resin-conductor composite base." This amendment draws support from p. 12, ll. 22 – 28 of the specification.

Applicants submit that for the reasons presented above, the language of claims 5 and 8, and the corresponding description in the specification clearly indicate Applicants' possession of the claimed invention to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2163.02, p. 2100-167 ("An applicant shows possession of the claimed invention by describing the claimed invention with all of its limitations using such descriptive means as words, structures, figures, diagrams, and formulas that fully set forth the claimed invention"). Applicants submit that all subject matter in "the specification conveys with a reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, applicant[s] [were] in possession of the invention as now claimed" (M.P.E.P. § 2163, 8th Ed., p. 2100-158), and that Applicants have fully satisfied their burden to "show support in the original disclosure for the new or amended claims" (Id., p. 2100-159).

Claims 5 and 8 fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, and Applicants accordingly request withdrawal of that rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 13, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 13, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP '607. The rejection of claim 2 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim.

In order to properly establish that JP '607 anticipates Applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every element of each of the claims in issue must be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in that single reference.

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Furthermore, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *See* M.P.E.P. § 2131, p. 2100-69, quoting *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1126, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection, JP '607 does not teach each and every element of Applicants' present invention as claimed.

As alleged by the Examiner, the non-reciprocal circuit defined in claim 1 of the present application comprises central conductors 11a, 11b, 11c bent around the magnetic body 12 with the insulation films in between, permanent magnet 3, yolk-forming metallic cases 1, 2, a flat laminate module 5 with integrated matching capacitors having patterns 13a, 13b, 13c, and a composite base 6 comprising an insulating member 9 and conductor plates 18, 16a, 16b, 17a, 17b, 17c, 17d, 17e, 17f. (Based on the Examiner's allegation on page 6 of the Final Office Action, side electrodes 17a to 17f are considered as conductor plates.)

There are major differences, however, between the present invention and JP '607, namely those found in the structures of laminate module 5 and composite base 6 of the present invention and those of the matching capacitor (not adjustment part by volume) 60 and shielding section 70 of JP '607 constituting the respective non-reciprocal circuit devices.

In the present invention, ground electrode 27 of laminate module 5 is disposed directly on a substantially entire upper surface of ground electrode 18 of composite base 6, and at least one ground terminal 17b/17c/17e/17f are integrally formed by the same conductor plate (I) (*See* Applicants' claim 1), lower surface 27 of laminate module 5 is in close contact with ground electrode (conductor plate) 18 of composite base 6 and directly soldered to each other. Ground electrode (conductor plate) 18 on a lower surface of composite base 6 is in close contact with the upper surface of the lower base and directly soldered to each other. Because this provides a wide

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contact area, the insertion loss is decreased, thereby providing good connection of the ground electrode and the terminal electrodes without loss (*See* page 10, lines 3 – 10 of the specification).

In contrast to the present invention, in JP '607's shielding case section 70 for acquiring yoke structure constituted by case 72 and resin section 74, only an outcrop 72A of case 72 is exposed from resin section 74 in order to connect by soldering with conductor 54 of the central grounding constituting a lower surface of central conductor assembly 50 (*See* paragraph [0016] and [0021] of the translation provided by the Examiner, and Fig. 2A of JP '607). In addition, electrode patterns 62D-62E, of matching capacitor 60 for grounding, are connected to the side electrodes 66D-66E, respectively, which are in turn connected with side terminal electrodes 74D-74E, respectively, for forming each connection of 66D-74D and 66E-74E, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2B (*See also* paragraph No. [0020] of the JP '607 translation). This results in an unstable ground connection with great loss, because side terminals 66D-74D and 66E-74E for grounding are in contact with the two lateral surfaces of case 84.

In this regard, Applicants note that, although the Examiner alleged that "the portions of 72 (e.g., 72A) that are in contact with the resin insulation member 74 as well as the top and bottom portions of 74A, 74B are considered as the "conductor plates" on the insulation member 74 (see also Figure 2 of JP '607)" (Final Office Action, p. 6), side electrodes 74D-74E and 74A-74B are not in contact with the two lateral surfaces of case 72 but in contact with the two lateral surfaces of case 84 for grounding.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that JP '607 does not anticipate Applicants' present invention as claimed in independent claim 1.

In addition, the difference between Applicants' claim 17 and JP '607 lies in the non-reciprocal circuit device used in a wireless communications equipment, of which similar

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recitations of the non-reciprocal circuit device are recited in claim 1. That is, one major distinguishing feature of claim 17 over JP '607 is found in that the non-reciprocal circuit device used in a wireless communications equipment comprising a non-reciprocal circuit device, a transmission circuit, a reception circuit, and an antenna, comprises at least matching capacitors 13a, 13b, 13c being integrally constituted in laminate module 5 having a substantially flat surface of composite base 6 comprising insulation member 19 and conductor plates 18 (*See* Applicants' claim 17), and having ground electrode 27 for connecting capacitors 13a, 13b, 13c to a ground on a substantially entire lower surface thereof, thereby making it possible to obtain a miniaturized, high-performance wireless communications equipment. *See* p. 9, ll. 24 – 25, p. 18, ll. 14 – 22, and p. 26, ll. 21 – 22 of Applicants' specification.

Thus, Figs. 1 and 2 of JP '607 do not show a laminate module being "disposed on a substantially flat surface of a composite base comprising an insulation member and conductor plates" (Applicants' claims 1 and 17), but instead show laminate body 60 on shielding case section 70 to which a portion of conductor 50 is connected. In this regard, Applicants note that two side walls of covering 84 are connected to side electrodes 66A, 66B, 66C, and connected to matching capacitors 62A, 62B, 63C, respectively.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that JP '607 does not anticipate Applicants' present invention as claimed in independent claim 17.

Thus, since JP '607 does not disclose each and every element of Applicants' independent claims 1 and 17, JP '607 does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention. In addition to JP '607 not anticipating the present invention, JP '607 does not disclose an identical invention, let alone in as complete detail as contained in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 17.

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Applicants submit that the Examiner has not met these essential requirements of anticipation for a proper 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 17 are allowable, for the reasons already argued above. In addition, dependent claims 13, 17, and 18 are also allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependency from allowable base claim 1 or 17. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the improper 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 13, 17, and 18 should be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '607 in view of JP '702, respectfully disagree with the Examiner's arguments and conclusions, and submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. The rejection of claim 3 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim elements. Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or to combine reference teachings. Third, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143, 8th Ed., Aug. 2001, pp. 2100-122 – 127.

The Examiner does not show that all the elements of Applicants' claims are met in the cited references, taken alone or in combination, does not show that there is any suggestion or motivation to modify the cited references to result in the claimed invention, and does not show there would be any reasonable expectation of success from so doing.

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Furthermore, regarding dependent claim 9, "Examiners are reminded that a dependent claim is directed to a combination including everything recited in the base claim and what is recited in the dependent claim. It is this combination that must be compared with the prior art, exactly as if it were present as one independent claim." M.P.E.P. § 608.01(n)(III), p. 600-77. JP '702, taken alone or in combination with JP '607, still does not teach or suggest those recitations of Applicants' independent claim 1 not taught or suggested by JP '607.

Applicants have already demonstrated above that JP '607 does not teach or suggest all the recitations of Applicants' independent claim 1, and therefore, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants' claim 9 is not obvious.

In addition, the Examiner admitted deficiencies in JP '607, in that it "does not disclose multiple electrode patterns connected by via electrodes ... nor a ground pattern on the lower surface of the laminate module 60" (Final Office Action, p. 3), yet alleges "it would have been obvious ... to have substituted the art-recognized [features] of [JP '702] in place of the ... non-reciprocal device of [JP '607] because such a substitution ... would have advantageously allowed for larger sized capacitors" (Final Office Action, p. 4). Applicants note, however, that JP '702 has ground conductors 81 and 82 above and below laminating capacitor layers 801 – 803, as evidenced in Fig. 2 of JP '702. Thus, these conductors cannot be Applicants' claimed: "electrode patterns in said laminate module are connected though via-electrodes and/or side surface electrodes" (Applicants' claim 9).

The Examiner has therefore not met at least one of the essential criteria for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness, wherein "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." *See* M.P.E.P. §§ 2142, 2143, and 2143.03.

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Even though JP '607 does not teach or suggest all the features of Applicants' claimed invention, the Examiner's application of JP '607 as a reference does not render the recitations of Applicants' claims obvious. Even if the Examiner's characterization of JP '607 were correct (which Applicants dispute), this still does not establish that there would have been the requisite suggestion or motivation to modify JP '607 with JP '702. "The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination." M.P.E.P. § 2143.01, p. 2100-124, citing *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (emphasis in original).

Since JP '607 and JP '702, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the recitations of Applicants' claimed invention, and there can be no suggestion or motivation *in the cited references* to modify JP '607 with JP '702. Applicants submit that the cited references do not suggest the desirability of their modification to produce Applicants' present invention.

The Examiner seems to rely on JP '607, despite the fact that JP '607 is directed to a different way of making a non-reciprocal circuit device. Applicants submit that the Examiner is improperly applying JP '607 to Applicants' claims, despite its obvious differences from the present claimed invention. The M.P.E.P. states that "[a] statement [by the Examiner] that modifications of the prior art to meet the claimed invention would have been "'well within the ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made'" because the references relied upon teach that all aspects of the claimed invention ... is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references." M.P.E.P. § 2143.01, p. 2100-124 (citations omitted, emphasis in original).

In addition to the fact that JP '607 does not teach or suggest all the recitations of Applicants' claimed invention and is directed toward a different way of making a non-reciprocal

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circuit device, JP '607 does not provide the requisite motivation for its modification with JP '702, or any reasonable expectation of success from so doing. Applicants have already established that JP '607 does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants further submit that, according to the M.P.E.P., the Examiner's citation of JP '607 in combination with JP '702 is not sufficient for the Examiner to establish *prima facie* obviousness.

Thus, dependent claim 9 is allowable for the reasons presented herein, in addition to being allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable base claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner should withdraw the improper 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Rejection of Claims 4 – 8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 4 – 8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '607 in view of Yamamoto, respectfully disagree with the Examiner's arguments and conclusions, and submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. The rejection of claims 5 and 6 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

The requirements for the Examiner to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness were set forth in the previous section.

As is clear from the above arguments against the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection, laminate module 60 of JP '607 is not disposed on a substantially flat surface of a (resin) composite base comprising an insulation member and conductor plates, but is placed on a shielding case section 70 constituted by case 72 and resin section 74 having an outcrop 72A of case 72 to which a portion of conductor 50 is connected, and to which two side walls of covering 84 are connected

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with side electrodes 66A, 66B, 66C and connected to matching capacitors 62A, 62B, 63C, respectively.

Applicants have already demonstrated above that JP '607 does not teach or suggest all the recitations of Applicants' independent claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants' claims 4 – 8 and 16 are not obvious over JP '607 standing alone. Moreover, Yamamoto, taken alone or in combination with JP '607, still does not teach or suggest those recitations of Applicants' independent claim 1 not taught or suggested by JP '607.

Yamamoto discloses an irreversible circuit element comprising a magnet yoke which also serves as a case; wherein said magnetic yoke has a surface which is covered with such a high-conductivity metal coating film that an electric resistivity is 5.5 μΩ-cm or less. *See* Yamamoto's claim 1. In addition, Yamamoto teaches that: "A permanent magnet 9 is attached to upper case 1. The permanent magnet 9 is used so that the upper case (upper yoke) and lower case (lower yoke) may be sliced to each other" (Yamamoto, col. 5, ll. 35–37, and Fig. 1). Namely, Yamamoto's high-conductivity metal coating film of 5.5 μΩ-cm or less having a thickness of 0.5 – 25 μm is formed by a metal coating on the inner surfaces of the upper and lower case (*See* Yamamoto's col. 3, ll. 1 – 24 and ll. 56 – 58), but Yamamoto is silent regarding not only a composite base comprising an insulating member and conductor plates but also the lower case of metal cases formed by an integral laminate of a metal having as high saturation magnetic flux density as 0.6 T or more, clad with a high-conductivity metal having an electric resistance of 5.5 x 10^{-8} Ω·m or less. *See* Applicants' specification, p. 14, ll. 4 – 8.

Therefore, those skilled in the art referring to JP '607, JP '702, or Yamamoto, taken alone or in combination, would not be motivated to produce the invention recited in any of Applicants' claims 4, 7, or 16 and accordingly, claims 4, 7, and 16 are not obvious.

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Regarding Applicants' dependent claim 8, although its patentability is clear from the above arguments, it is noted that as is clear from Applicants' Fig. 8, projection 20 extending from external terminal 17a can serve as a positioning means for laminate module 5 on a surface of the resin-conductor composite base 6, which is brought into contact with laminate module 5, thereby facilitating the assembling. *See* Applicants' specification p. 20, ll. 24 – 28. The cited references fail to teach such a projection extending from the external terminal.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 4, 7, 8, and 16 are allowable for the reasons presented in the previous sections and this section, which clearly show the differences between the cited references and Applicants' present invention, as claimed. Moreover, Applicants' dependent claims 4, 7, 8, and 16 are also allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependence from allowable base claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner should withdraw the improper 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Rejection of Claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '607 in view of Marusawa. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's arguments and conclusions, and respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

The requirements for the Examiner to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness were set forth previously.

Applicants have already demonstrated above that JP '607 does not teach or suggest all the recitations of Applicants' independent claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants' claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 are not obvious over JP '607 standing alone. Moreover,

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Marusawa, taken alone or in combination with JP '607, still does not teach or suggest those recitations of Applicants' independent claim 1 not taught or suggested by JP '607.

Marusawa teaches, in Fig. 12, a plurality of conductors 55 to 57 stacked in laminate 58 through magnetic layers to achieve miniaturization and loss reduction. *See* Marusawa's col. 3, ll. 42 – 52, col. 8, ll. 8 – 19, col. 9, ll. 12 – 23, and Figs. 11 and 12. As shown in Marusawa's Fig. 4, however, the respective conductors 55, 56, and 57 are formed from multiple conductors, each formed in a magnetic green sheet 52, 53, 54, connected by via connection (each connected to the respective through hole electrodes), which is clearly different from the present invention either in (A) the laminated central conductor assembly 40 formed by printing central conductor patterns 44a-44c (not a plurality of conductor patterns each formed in a magnetic green sheet) onto magnetic ceramic green sheets 43a-43f (*See*, for example, Applicants' Figs. 9 and 10) or (B) the central conductors 67 formed on a surface and inside of a laminate module 60 (*See*, for example, Applicants' Fig. 11(a)).

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 are allowable for the reasons presented in the previous sections and this section, which clearly show the differences between the cited references and Applicants' present invention, as claimed. Moreover, Applicants' dependent claims 10 – 12, 14, and 15 are also allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependence from allowable base claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner should withdraw the improper 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Conclusion:

In making various references to the specification and drawings set forth herein, it is understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to the exemplary embodiments described in the specification and illustrated in the drawings. Rather,

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Applicants expressly affirm that they are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request reconsideration of the application, and submit that the rejections detailed above are improper and should be withdrawn. Applicants submit that pending claims 1, 4, and 7 – 18 are in condition for allowance. A favorable action is requested.

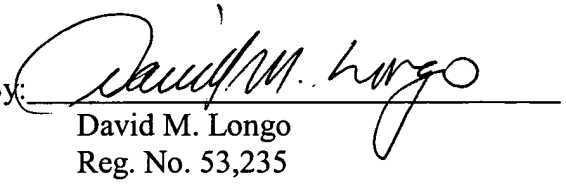
Should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the claims after consideration of this Amendment, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to discuss any remaining issues or to resolve any other misunderstandings.

Please grant any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 required in entering this response. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17, which are not enclosed, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 16, 2003

By: 
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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT OF May 16, 2003

Version of Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A non-reciprocal circuit device comprising a plurality of central conductors overlapping with electric insulation from each other at a predetermined angle, a magnetic body disposed in contact with or close to said central conductors, matching capacitors, a permanent magnet disposed for applying a DC magnetic field to said central conductors and said magnetic body, and metal cases for receiving these parts and serving as a magnetic yoke, wherein at least said matching capacitors [being] are integrally constituted in a laminate module having a substantially flat lower surface, and said laminate module [being] is disposed on a substantially flat surface of a composite base comprising an insulation member and conductor plates,

said laminate module having a ground electrode for connecting said capacitors to a ground on a substantially entire lower surface thereof, said composite base comprising a ground electrode connected to said central conductors and said capacitors of said laminate module and terminal electrodes connected to said central conductors and said capacitors of said laminate module on the same plane, said ground terminals connected to said ground electrode and said input/output terminals connected to said terminal electrodes being provided as external terminals on side surfaces and/or a lower surface of said laminate module,

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wherein said ground electrode of said composite base and at least one ground terminal are integrally formed by the same conductor plate,

wherein terminal electrodes and at least one input/output terminal are integrally formed by the same conductor plate, and said terminal electrodes are not electrically connected to each other within the same conductor plate, and

wherein said ground electrode of said laminate module is disposed directly on a substantially entire upper surface of a ground electrode of said composite base.

8. (Amended) The non-reciprocal circuit device according to claim 4, wherein said resin-conductor composite base has a means for positioning said laminate module on a flat upper surface thereof, said means comprising external terminals on side surfaces of the resin-conductor composite base.

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